

Emergency Commission on Sixth District Congressional Gerrymandering

Conference Call February 20, 2019

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Review of Governor's Order and Court Decision
3. Summary of the Record and Workplan for the Call
4. Commissioner Perspectives
5. Reaction to Each others' Comments
6. Commission Discussion to Narrow Issues
7. Discuss Next Steps
8. Adjourn

Exhibits for Call

Gov. Hogan's executive order creating commission:

https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/0289_001-1.pdf

Governor's "free and fair" page with further links:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/free-and-fair/>

Benisek v. Lamone, federal court's memorandum opinion of Nov. 7

<https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legal-work/2018-11-07-Memorandum%20Opinion.pdf>

Benisek earlier memorandum in support of motion for preliminary injunction (thumbnail remedy map. p. 26 of court document)

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legal-work/Benisek_v_Lamone_Memorandum_in_Supportof_MotionforPI.pdf

Benisek documents generally

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legal-work/Benisek_v_Lamone_Memorandum_in_Supportof_MotionforPI.pdf

<https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/benisek-v-lamone-amicus-brief>

Existing district map:

https://mdpgis.mdp.state.md.us/Con_Legis_District/index.html

Public map submission:

<https://app.redistricting.maryland.gov/maryland/Default.aspx?LogOut=True>

Common Themes from Public Hearings (derived from Minutes):

Public Hearing #1 Frederick, MD January 14, 2018

Of the 16 attendees that spoke, common themes are listed below:

- Freedom of speech and the right to choose elected representation need to be honored.
- The issue is indicative of a national problem.
- Keep similar communities with shared values and interests together.
- Residents who believe their votes have been disenfranchised want their “voice back.”
- Suggestion that only those deemed citizens should be counted in the Census.
- Given that the composition of the sixth district will change, all of Maryland should be redistricted in this process.
- Suggestion that the Commission use algorithms to compute the final recommendation.
- Compactness is important.

Public Hearing #2 Rockville, MD January 31, 2018

Of the 14 attendees that spoke, common themes are listed below:

- Western Maryland is different than Montgomery County. Keep similar communities with shared values and interests together.

- Belief that urban areas are well represented while rural areas are not. Belief that an elected official cannot adequately serve both without having to choose sides.
- Desire that the Commission return to the original district boundaries.
- Gerrymandering hurts all voters. Every vote should count.
- Elected representatives should represent the people and communities they serve.
- The Commission should take this opportunity to address similar issues throughout Maryland and fix all districts.
- Criteria for the Commission's task should be made as clear as possible.
- Keep districts compact. Respect natural boundaries.
- Algorithms can help the Commission in their work.

**Public Hearing #3
Cumberland, MD
February 6, 2019**

Of the 15 attendees that spoke, common themes are listed below:

- Garrett and Allegany Counties do not have the same issues as Montgomery County, public health, safety and infrastructure needs.
- Need a balance of voters.
- Housing prices higher in Montgomery County than in Allegany and Garrett Counties.
- Better harmony without Montgomery County.
- Need for a homogenous district.
- Suggest going back to the old map that follows the Mason Dixon Line.
- The current map was created for political reasons.
- Lack of a local representative's and presence and office in the rural area.
- Government must be transparent, must have trust.
- Keep similar communities with similar values and interests in the same district.
- Political disenfranchisement, local candidates can't financially compete with Montgomery County representatives in elections.
- Suggest not using zip codes and do not break up a single county to make the boundary.
- Citizens believe the voices have not been heard by the current Congressman.
- Need to have both rural and urban areas in the district.